

15 February 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 15 February 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor; Mr. Johnson; Mr. Gilpatric and
General Lemnitzner; Mr. McCone

1. Distribution of Papers

Mr. Johnson said that it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to give adequate attention to CIA's proposals which are scheduled for the Special Group, because the papers reach him so late. Mr. McCone responded that this problem has bothered him as well and he is taking steps to change the procedure.

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3. Covert Economic Action

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Mr. Johnson stated that he had requested a deferral of this proposal because there had not been time to give it full consideration in the Department.

Mr. McCone then said that he personally questions the basic philosophy behind projects of this kind, especially because of the fact that facilities into which American money is put will eventually revert to the local governments. Mr. Johnson stated that he is also somewhat worried about the project but for a different reason - i.e.,

return. He pointed to the fact that the intelligence and political action aspects of the proposal are peripheral.

Mr. McCone agreed, saying that the project does not advance the CIA mission and that he would be willing to carry it out as an executive agent only if he is told by the Department or the Group that this is desired as being in the national interest.

NSC review(s) completed.

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5. Cuba

Mr. Gilpatric showed the Group a comprehensive manual, which he said had been prepared jointly by CIA and Defense, to govern interrogation of Cuban refugees in Florida. Mr. McCone mentioned that this is a preliminary draft and that there may be some changes in it.

6. Cuban Volunteers in U.S. Army

The Defense recommendation to discontinue this program, effective 1 July 1962, and State's concurrence in the discontinuance were noted. Mr. McCone perceived no objection from the CIA point of view.

7. Powers

Mr. McCone gave the Group an interim report on results of the questioning of Francis Gary Powers.

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8. SAAT Report

The Group discussed the two parts of the South American Assessment Team's report. It was agreed that their content does not lend itself to consideration by the Special Group (Counter-Insurgency). The matter of coordination and departmental consideration of various aspects of the report was left open. It was suggested that Mr. Johnson discuss the matter with Mr. Bundy.

Thomas A. Farrott

Distribution

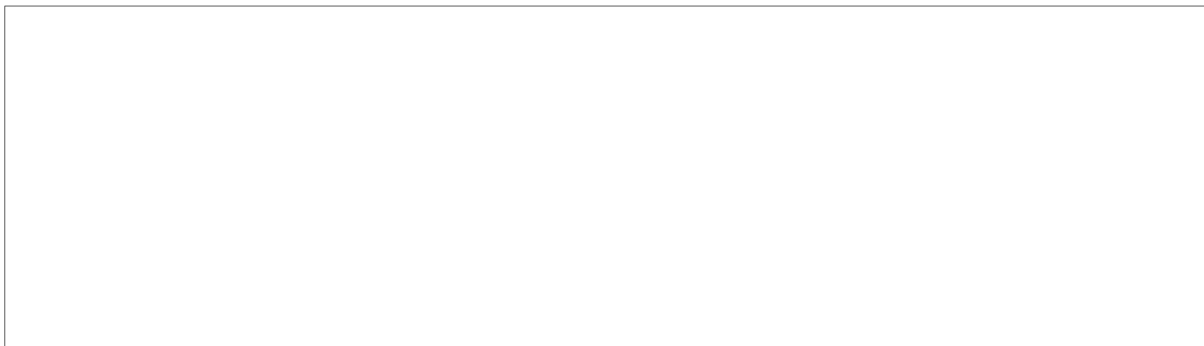
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatrick
Mr. McCona
General Taylor

15 February 1962

NOTES ON SPECIAL GROUP MEETING

Item 1. a. :

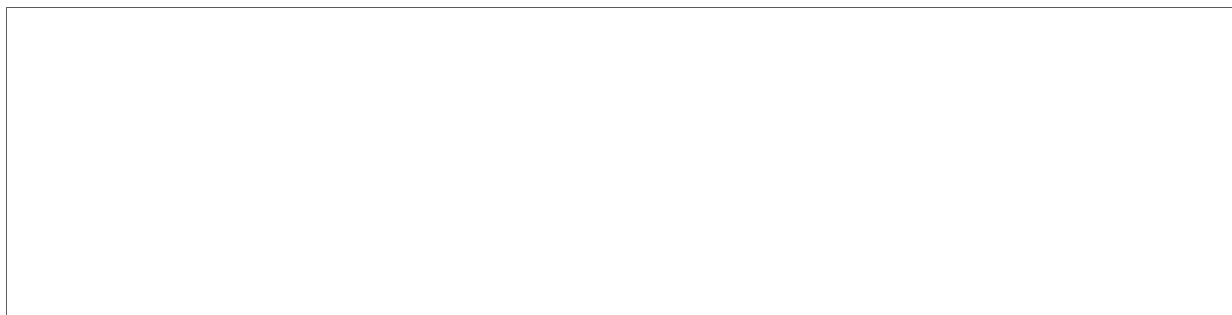
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Reference 1. b. :

CIA to set up interdepartmental Task Force, recommendation 4, page 3. Group plan for implementing proposal. Secure necessary clearances from Ambassador Young and submit detailed plan to the CI Group. DOD to be represented by Col. Wilson, State by Meachling, AID representative to be nominated.

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Reference - Memo on Counter Insurgency terminology. Definitions: - Lemnitzer referred to Defense Department's dictionary of terms. It was agreed Defense would review with State and CIA and reach agreed conclusions on terminology.

Reference - School of Advanced Institute to provide counter-insurgency training.

It was agreed that CIA, State and DOD would submit comments to General Taylor not later than Monday, February 19th, on two papers prepared by General Taylor and one prepared by State and attached. McCone reviewed CIA's paper. Made no commitment concerning participation in government-wide school although idea of an institute similar to the Foreign Service Institute supported at the meeting.

Reference - Guatemala

McCone indicated situation fluid, reported almost daily, and suggested Special Group not take cognizance of Guatemala pending developments next week. Defense and State submitted memoranda reports on progress in Vietnam, copies attached. Apparently CIA does not receive these reports. This should be checked. It was explained that these reports used as basis for brief memo submitted by General Taylor or Bundy to the President.

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Defense has completed its inventory of para-military assets and will circulate.

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In the Special Group meeting a proposal to support was passed.

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Brief discussion of Caribbean operation with Gilpatric submitting interrogational guide as evidence of constructive work by CIA and Defense. McCone indicated that guide was preliminary draft form and subject to some review.

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Next meeting scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 21.

John A. McCone
Director

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